

WE CLAIM:

1. A flexographic printing press comprising:

a central impression cylinder having an outside surface adapted to support a web during printing,

an unwind apparatus adapted to unwind a web to be printed on the central impression cylinder,

means for guiding a web between the unwind apparatus and the central impression cylinder and providing an upstream entry point to the central impression cylinder,

a rewind apparatus adapted to rewind a printed web,

means for guiding a web between the central impression cylinder and the rewind apparatus and providing a downstream exit point from the central impression cylinder, the unwind apparatus, central impression cylinder, and rewind apparatus defining a path of web travel from an upstream direction to a downstream direction,

a plurality of printing decks positioned around the outside surface of the central impression cylinder, including an upstream printing deck adjacent said upstream entry point and a downstream printing deck adjacent said downstream exit point,

at least one between color dryer positioned between each pair of adjacent printing decks, and

a downstream dryer positioned between the downstream printing deck and the downstream exit point for drying a web on the central impression cylinder before the downstream exit point.

2. The press of claim 1 in which there is no dryer

between said exit point from the central impression cylinder and said rewind apparatus.

3. The press of claim 1 in which said means for guiding a web between the central impression cylinder and the rewind apparatus includes an air turning bar.

4. The press of claim 3 in which said air turning bar is adjacent said exit point from the central impression cylinder.

5. The press of claim 1 in which said downstream dryer includes a plurality of nozzle plenums, a plurality of heat sources, and separate control means for each of the heat sources.

6. The press of claim 1 including a second downstream dryer positioned between the downstream printing deck and the downstream exit point for drying a web on the central impression cylinder before the downstream exit point.

7. The press of claim 6 in which each of said downstream dryers includes a plurality of nozzles, a plurality of heat sources, and separate control means for controlling each of the heat sources.

8. The press of claim 1 in which the downstream dryer includes a nozzle plenum and means for supplying unheated air to the nozzle plenum.